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Dockets Management Branch HFA-305
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fisher Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

I am writing to you in regard to the proposed rules of medical gloves Docket No. 98N-0313.

I congratulate the FDA on taking a stand to address the growing concern of latex allergy and powdered latex gloves. I expect that setting limits on powder would be helpful, at least to start. However, it seems that given the current and past literature, a total ban on powdered latex gloves is essential. Several states have proposed legislation to do just that, and have been unsuccessful to date. Those of us affected daily, require a ban on powdered latex gloves, and request the FDA to do this. Powdered latex gloves are not safe.

As for the two-year time frame, the majority of glove manufactures have been aware of this growing problem at least since 1991, and have therefore had nine years to make adjustments. Many manufactures have increased their non-latex and powder-free latex production already, and should not be given the opportunity of two additional years.

I sincerely hope that the FDA will make a requirement concerning powdered latex gloves, and not just a recommendation. While I feel a powder limit is not sufficient to halt this problem, it is a good start.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment, and for your time in this matter. Please implement changes as soon as possible, for those of us already afflicted, and for the safety of the public.

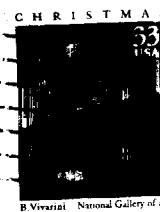
Sincerely,



Colleen M. Baker, BS, RN.

98N-0313

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